

HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION (HCA)

- To strengthen the sense of community, responsibility, and livability in the Highlands for all residents.
- To protect, preserve, and further the residential quality of the Highlands neighborhood.
- To maintain an open line of communication among the Highlands neighborhood, the Borough of State College, the University community, and other Borough neighborhoods and agencies.
- To facilitate the exchange of information among HCA residents.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

7:15pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting convened at 7:17 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Vinnie Scanlon, Eric White, Susan Venegoni, Margaret Sebastianelli, Dave Stone, Peg Hambrick, Jim Shincovich, Susan Shincovich, Helen Kearney
2. Treasurer's Report and Dues Collection:
 - July account balance is \$1,017.95.
3. Approval of Dec. 4, Jan. 8, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4, 2019
 - No action was taken lacking a quorum to vote.
4. Another Neighborhood Yard Sale – Saturday, August 24th - 9am-2pm:
 - To advertise a yard sale, neighbors should contact Laird Jones by email at kocherhouse357@gmail.com.
 - A list of participants will be developed and shared among members to assist in directing the public to other neighborhood sales.
5. E. Fairmount Park Improvements Update:
 - Funding sources will come from the Borough and through grants.
 - Grant proposal decisions are expected late fall.

- Funding will support the Master Plan and tree revitalization project.
 - HCA contributions will be in volunteer time, planting and caring for the trees.
 - Target date for starting the project is 2020.
6. **Annual Meeting – Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019 – Pre-planning, Officer Nominations, and Elections, 5:30– 8:30 pm:**
- The annual meeting will give those in attendance a chance to meet and engage with neighbors, encourage new membership and participation, enjoy a potluck dinner, and learn about the board’s activities and contributions to the community.
 - Each family in attendance will receive a serviceable environmentally savvy bag with the HCA logo. Additional bags will be available for purchase for the price of \$2.00 each.
 - Current members are encouraged to invite non-member neighbors to attend.
 - Potluck meal items will be provided by participating members; HCA will provide paper and plastic supplies along with beverages.
 - How to advertising the meeting to encourage participation was discussed and several ideas were considered including hand carrying an announcement to surrounding neighbors and providing the information at the LION Bash engagement station.
7. **LION Bash – Engagement Station, Tuesday, September 10, 5:00-8:00 pm, Allen Street:**
- LION Bash is an opportunity to engage in conversation about the HCA annual meeting on September 12.
 - HCA members interested in staffing the engagement station should respond to Mark’s LISTSERV call for volunteers.
 - Volunteers are encouraged to wear the HCA Highland Neighborhood t-shirt.
8. **Neighborhood Coalition Activities:**
- At the June meeting subjects for discussion included eyesore properties mainly in College Heights and Holmes-Foster, concerns about short-term rental and new home sales intended for short-term rentals, Borough’s self-determination tax initiative, and West Campus Parking Garage and traffic implications for Atherton Street, surrounding neighborhoods and downtown .
 - The current West Campus Parking Garage Plan may create a traffic backup on surrounding streets and have a safety impact for bike riders.
 - Penn State’s garage parking plan is designed to accommodate growth for the next 5-10 years.
 - Option not favorably considered in the parking plan is the use of existing PSU land along White Course Drive as a potential second egress to mitigate a traffic burden to Atherton Street and the community.
 - Concern was expressed regarding Penn State’s attempt to lessen parking on campus by pushing parking off campus into the community.

- CATA employs vans for ride sharing and is available to provide alternative public transportation.

9. Highlands Parking Pilot Update:

- Warring and citation activity during the Blue White Weekend and Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts served to provide the Borough with data to help determine staffing needs for the upcoming football season.
- To date, sixty-seven Highlands residents have registered for parking passes for special events.
- An assessment of the pilot's impact on parking in the Highlands during spring, summer and fall special events will be completed in December/January.

10. Other items for discussion:

- State College Area School District Board of Directors voted down Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) proposal previously passed by Borough Council and Centre County Board of Commissioners.
- Greek update: IFC Fall Festival will be held on the HUB lawn. Sororities living off campus and in the Borough will be paired with residents through the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) program.
- The 2nd anniversary of *Hearts in the Highlands* will be celebrated with cake at the HCA Annual Meeting. Those with fond memories of Fairmount Avenue Elementary School and who wish to write about their student experience for posting to *Hearts in the Highlands* should contact Eric White, erw2@psu.edu.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, August 2019